

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

On the condition that a predetermined time has passed after an engine control unit stops its normal engine control operation when the ignition switch of a vehicle is turned off, the control unit can be supplied automatically with operating power to start up and execute an evaporation gas purging diagnosis process for detecting the leakage in the evaporation gas purge system of the vehicle. If the control unit determines that it has started up on the foregoing condition, it inhibits the operation of the electric loads of the vehicle that are needless for the evaporation gas purging diagnosis process. This reliably prevents wasteful power consumption, thereby preventing the battery of the vehicle from running down.